

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 19188 081412Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /182 W

----- 067199

R 081215Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8837

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SAIGON 19188

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUB: SAIGON MEDIA REACTION TO BIEN HOA SHELLING

1. THE SAIGON MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 TO THE NOVEMBER 6 COMMUNIST ROCKET ATTACK ON BIEN HOA. THE RVN'S NOVEMBER 7 RETALIATORY BOMBING AT LOC NINH HAS NOT YET HIT THE NEWSPAPERS BUT WILL NO DOUBT BE GIVEN MAJOR TRATMENT IN THE NOVEMBER 9 EDITIONS.

2. PRESS REPORTING. ALL NEWSPAPERS ON NOVEMBER 7 BANNERED THE BIEN HOA ATTACK. INDEPENDENT CHINH LUAN HEADLINED: "BY SHELLING BIEN HOA, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TORN UP THE PARIS AGREEMENT." CATHOLIC HOA BINH REPORTED IN ITS HEADLINE THAT THE GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE ATTACK AS THE "SIGNAL" OF A GENERAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 19188 081412Z

OFFENSIVE. DETAILED STORIES BY THE NESPAPER'S OWN

CORRESPONDENTS FOLLOWED MOST OF THESE HEADLINES.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS ON NOVEMBER 8 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS OF THE DAMAGE AT BIEN HOA. CHINH LUAN AND PRO-ADMINISTRATION QUAT CUONG FEATURED THE RELATED NEWS THAT THE RVN WAS BOYCOTTING THIS WEEK'S SESSION AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD. OTHER PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON POSTS NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IN MR-2, PARTICULARLY THE POST AT DAK SONG. GOVERNMENT-LEANING SONG THAN REPORTED THAT THE BIEN HOA AIR BASE WAS STILL OPERATING, AND THAT FROM IT PLANES WERE BOMBING SUSPECTED COMMUNIST ROCKET BASES. A STORY IN INDEPENDENT DOC LAP CITED POLITICIANS CLOSE TO GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH AS BELIEVING THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT BEGIN A GENERAL OFFENSIVE, DESPITE THE OMINOUS SIGNS.

4. EDITORIALS. FIVE PAPERS HAD EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 8 BEARING ON THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS. QUAT CUONG DECLARED THAT, WHILE THE RVN RESPECTS THE PARIS AGREEMENT, IT "CANNOT STAY IDLE AND LET THE COMMUNISTS DO AS THEY PLEASE". CALLING THE COMMUNIST "BETRAYERS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT", THE PAPER ALL BUT PREDICTED RETALIATION. DAN CHU, THE DAILY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL PARTY, ALSO SUGGESTED "IMMEDIATE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES" TO MEET ANY COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVE ACTS. ARMED FORCES NEWSPAPER TIEN TUYEN BELIEVED THAT THE "WARLIKE ATTITUDE" OF THE COMMUNISTS PROVES THAT RECENT WARNINGS BY PRESIDENT THIEU HAD BEEN "CLEAR-SIGHTED". THE PAPER URGED A STRENGTHENING OF RVN RESOLVE TO "THWART THE COMMUNISTS' SCHEME TO REKINDLE THE WAR."

5. RADIO AND TELEVISION. ON NOVEMBER 7, SAIGON RADIO REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE BIEN HOA ATTACK, PUTTING IT IN THE CONTEXT OF REPEATED COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE. SLOGANS BROADCAST THAT DAY SPOKE OF MAKING THE COMMUNISTS PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. THE RADIO COVERAGE NOVEMBER 8 STRESSED PROTESTS OF THE BIEN HOA SHELLING, ESPECIALLY A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION BY RESIDENTS OF THAT CITY. (ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE MARCHED TO ICCS REGION V HQ.) THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTEST COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT COMMUNIST ATTACKS WAS ALSO FEATURE.

MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, PRESS COMMENTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON19188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731146/aaaabhyt.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAIGON MEDIA REACTION TO BIEN HOA SHELLING
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005